

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 01073 262013Z

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ACTION OPIC-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 /040 W

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R 261930Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4315

UNCLAS KINGSTON 1073

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, JM

SUBJECT: OPIC - FEASIBILIYY WALL PANEL MANUFACTURE

REF: A. STATE 26750; B. STATE 50781; C. KINGSTON 928

FOLLOWING INFORMATION KEYED TO QUESTIONS POSED REFERENCE A:

1. BASED ON THE COST FACTOR OF EXISITING MATERIAL BEING USED, THE NECESSITY OF FINDING MATERIAL EASY TO INSTALL, AND THE FACT THAT BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS ARE ENGAGED IN A VARIETY OF HOUSING PROJECTS INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL UNITS AND HIGH RISE APARTMENTS, THERE APPEARS TO BE A MARKET AND TECHNICAL NEED FOR MANUFACTURED HOUSING PANELS IN JAMAICA

2. YES GOJ IS ALWAYS SEEKING TO CUT DOWN IMPORT CONTENT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, AND THE JAMAICA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACTIVELY SEEKS FOREIGN INVESTORS AND PROVIDES INDUSTRIAL INCENTIVES TO "APPROVED" INDSTUTRIES

3. THERE IS COMPETITION FROM BAGASSE BOARD, GYPSUM BOARD AND SOME VINYL IMPORTED FROM ENGLAND WHICH HAS SATISFIED FIRE RATING OF USERS. THE TEST WILL BE WHETHER THE PRODUCT MEETS ACCOUSTICAL AND FIRE RATINGS OF THE MAIN PANEL INSTALLERS. A CHECK WITH THE BIGGER INSTALLERS, REVELAED SOME SKEPTICISM ABOUT THIS PRODUCT ACHIEVING THE ACCEPTABLE SOUND AND FIRE RATINGS

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4. NO. JAMAICAN BUILDING LAWS HAVE BEEN CHANGED YEARS

AGO TO ACCOMMODATE ANY NEW MATERIAL TESTED AND ACCEPTED BY US FEDERAL AGENCIES AND UK BUREAU OF STANDARDS. THE JAMAICAN BUREAU OF STANDARDS DOES NOT CARRY OUT ANY TESTS AT PRESENT. IF THE PRODUCT SATISFIES US OR UK AGENCIES AS BEING SAFE FOR USE IN JAMAICA, FINNANCING WILL NOT PRESENT ANY SERIOUS OBSTACLE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE BIGGEST PANEL INSTALLERS, MODERN PARTITIONS LIMITED, DOES SOME POLICING ON THE STANDARD OF MATERIAL USED IN PANELLING. JAMAICA'S LARGEST PLASTIC PRODUCTS COMPANY, THERMO-PLASTICS LIMITED, BROUGHT OUT A PLASTIC WALL PANEL ABOUT SIX YEARS AGO. IN ADDITION TO ACCOUSTICAL AND FIRE RESISTANT PROBLEMS, THIS PANEL WAS PRONE TO WARP, AND PRODUCTION WAS DISCONTINUED

5. BASED ON ABOVE INFORMATION, PROPOSED STUDY APPEARS PRACTICABLE. HEWITT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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